

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application.

Acknowledgement of the allowability of claims 3 and 6-17 is noted with appreciation.

Upon entry of this amendment claims 1, 2 and 6-17 are pending in the application. By this amendment allowable claim 3 and its analogous claim 5 are canceled and their similar subject matter is incorporated into independent claims 1 and 2, respectively.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested because it cancels claims and places the application in condition for allowance.

Rejection Over ARATAKE et al.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6-17 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by ARATAKE et al. (U.S. Patent 5,116,899). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 2 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 3. It is thus believed that claims 1 and 2 are instantly allowable. Claims depending upon claims 1 or 2 are believed to be patentable for at least this reason.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The issuance of a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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